



In all things faithful

**St Damian's RC Science College**

Lees Road  
Ashton-under-Lyne  
OL6 8BH

**Tel:** 0161 330 5974

**Fax:** 0161 331 4744

**Email:** admin@stdamians.co.uk

**Web:** <http://www.stdamians.co.uk/>

**Follow us on Twitter:** @StDamiansRCSC

**Find us on Facebook**

**Headteacher**

Mr S Logue BA (Hons), M.Ed., NPQH

5<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

**General Update**

A very warm welcome to the weekly update. We are now into the second month of 2021 and hopefully a month closer to the staff at St Damian's being able to welcome the children back to school. The building just isn't the same without the hustle and bustle of your children.

**Celebration of St Damian's Feast Day**

Next Friday morning we will gather as a community to celebrate the feast day of our patron Saint Damian of Novara. Father Simon Firth will lead us in Mass at St Christopher's Church. A small number of pupils will attend to represent all the pupils past and present. Our theme for this year is 'The St Damian's Way'. In practice, this means living out the Gospel values in our behaviour towards each other and refocusing our dedication to developing our talents and our service to others in need. The St Damian's Feast Day Mass can be found on the live stream on *Catholic Ashton - Parish of The Holy Cross and St Helen Facebook group at 9:30am.*

The link is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/69315208782/>

I hope that you and your child will join us to celebrate this occasion. To accommodate this, Form Time Activities on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> and all period one lessons will be cancelled.

**Year 11s**

Most Year 11 are engaging with the remote learning working and 91.4% of Year 11 attended all lessons last week. I have received many positive comments from their teachers to say how proud they are and how well the majority of Year 11s are coping, under the circumstances. Sadly, however, there are a small number of pupils still not engaging with live lessons and this will have a negative impact on both their exam results and futures. It is vital your child is engaging with the remote learning and following their teachers' instructions.

**Mental Health week follow-up**

This week has seen the school plan different activities with regards to pupils' mental well-being. This is an important aspect of developing the whole child. At St Damian's we believe that 'happy children achieve'. Since the beginning of the year we have delivered live lessons for most of the time. However, we are mindful that pupils are spending longer than usual in front of their screens. As a parent it is important that you ensure that your children have some time away from the screen. There is also advice from the NHS and activities on the following web-site.

[https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/?WT.tsrc=Search&WT.mc\\_id=MentalHealthGeneric&gclid=EAlaIqobChMliN2DxpnG7gIV0-3tCh1VgQmjEAAyAIAAEgiRO\\_D\\_BwE](https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/?WT.tsrc=Search&WT.mc_id=MentalHealthGeneric&gclid=EAlaIqobChMliN2DxpnG7gIV0-3tCh1VgQmjEAAyAIAAEgiRO_D_BwE)

St. Damian's RC Science College

### Remote Learning and Parental Questionnaire Feedback

A big thanks for all the responses to the parent survey with regards to remote learning - your feedback is much appreciated. At the time of writing this there have been around 160 responses. I will share the results of this survey over the next few weeks.

### National Apprenticeships Week [8<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> February]

To mark this occasion, on Teams there will be an Apprenticeships competition which includes the completion of a Pupil Activity Pack for Years 7 -11, prizes will be awarded for the best ideas. Daily updates on Teams will list activities that pupils can take part in. The February Careers Update in the Careers tab on the website contains links to 'live' events run by the Greater Manchester Careers Service [GMACS]. These include links to apprenticeships in Engineering, Creative Media, Technology and well-known employers such as Astra Zeneca, the RAF, Brother & the GM Public Sector. Please register via the link to take part in these events in advance. An Apprenticeship pack for parents/carers will also be on the website explaining the range of apprenticeships available.

### Well Done!

An important aspect of the '*St Damian's Way*' is to celebrate as a community. Last week I found out 2 great pieces of news that I believe to be worthy of a big 'Well done!'.

Firstly, I was contacted by Oldham Sixth Form College, who informed me that Oliver Cooney, an ex-pupil and Head Boy of St Damian's in 2018/2019 has been offered a place to study Linguistics at St John's College, Cambridge University. This is fantastic news! Congratulations Oliver, we wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

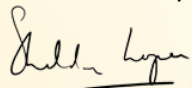
Secondly, Mrs Henshaw, Deputy Headteacher has been short-listed for a National Award in recognition of her work with regards to Careers. This award is entitled '*Careers leader of the Year*' and the winner will be announced in March. Mrs Henshaw works tirelessly to ensure a range of high-quality opportunities for the children at the school. In fact, the Careers provision is exceptional. I have no doubt she will be a worthy winner of this National award and I wish her all the best.

### Finally...

Next week is the last week of this half-term. It is fitting that we end this half term celebrating Mass for our patron saint, Saint Damian. During the Mass I ask that you pray for everyone connected to our community, pupils, parents, staff and governors, who, to some degree, are suffering during this National Pandemic. It is times like these when we reflect on what really matters. And one thing that does matter, is that we all look out for each other.

Take care and God bless!

Yours sincerely



Mr Logue  
Headteacher